ALBERTA'S GREATEST LIBERAL CONVENTION

IN these unsettled times it was an inspiration to attend the sessions of the Alberta Provincial Liberal Convention held in Calgary from January 16th to 18th last. The quotation from the Calgary Albertan on the cover page of this pamphlet will convey some idea of the harmony and the enthusiasm which prevailed and of the thoroughly representative character of the convention.

The most perplexing problems were faced with courage and frankness. Tariff, taxation, franchise, land-settlement and all matters of reconstruction arising out of the war were dealt with in a spirit of earnestness and with full confidence that a united and aggressive liberalism is the only force that can carry this country through the difficulties and dangers of present conditions and establish once more a period of material progress and of continued development of the liberties and rights of the people.

The resolutions passed and the proceedings followed are herewith given in full—

THE ALBERTA LIBERAL ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Convention of The Alberta Liberal Association held at Paget Hall, in the City of Calgary, on Thursday and Friday, the 16th and 17th days of January, 1919.

Opening Proceedings

On Thursday, January 16th, 1919 at half past ten in the forenoon Mr. Alex Allan, President of the Association called the Convention to order. Proceedings were opened by the singing of the National Anthem.

On motion Mr. A. Mahaffy was appointed Secretary pro tem of the Convention.

The President then delivered a short address.

On motion of Honourable A. G. McKay, seconded by L. L. Pack, it was resolved that the resolutions Committee consist of all the Dominion Liberal Candidates at the last Election, in the absence of any such Candidate the President of the District Liberal Association to take his place, all Members of the Legislature present, all Liberal Senators present and two delegates to be selected from each such District, and further that all resolutions be submitted to the Resolutions Committee. The election of the members of the Resolutions Committee was then proceeded with and the Resolutions Committee, as constituted, retired.

On motion it was resolved that the appointment of Voting Delegates be left in abeyance.

Hon. Chas. Stewart, Premier of Alberta, Delivers Address

The Honourable Charles Stewart, Premier of Alberta then delivered an address.

Liberal Principles, Record and Leadership Endorsed

On motion of Honourable Frank Oliver, seconded by Martin Woolf, M.L.A., the following resolution was adopted:

"Whereas the Liberals of Alberta have met in open convention for the purpose of declaring their belief in the principles of Liberalism, of discussing the application of those principles to the many new problems now confronting the country, and to organize so that these principles may prevail in the forthcoming general elections, and,

"Whereas Canada is a country of vast extent, varied interests and unbounded resources, containing within herself all the elements of national greatness, but unless there is unity of purpose amongst her varied interests, her extent and resources tend to weakness and stagnation instead of to strength and progress, and

"Whereas this Convention recognizes that there must be national strength or there cannot be national progress, that there must be unity or there cannot be strength and that the foundation of unity is the assurance to each citizen that he will be protected in his right, and

"Whereas the first principle of Liberalism is the guarantee of individual right, and this Convention believes that a policy founded on that principle is the only one under which Canada can be united, strong and progressive, and

"Whereas the history of Canada proves that Canadian progress was never so great or its people so well content as when its affairs were conducted under Liberal direction, especially in the period from 1896 to 1911, and

"Whereas in the change from war to peace conditions there is greatest need for the application of the soundest principles of government under the most efficient Leadership,

"Therefore be it resolved that the Liberals of Alberta in Convention assembled hereby declare their support of the Canadian Liberal party, and express their confidence in Sir Wilfred Laurier as their Leader."

Dr. William Egbert of Calgary then addressed the Convention for a short period and at half past twelve o'clock the meeting adjourned until two p.m.

The Convention was again called to order at two o'clock in the afternoon.

Repeal of War Time Elections Act Demanded

On motion of Honourable A. G. McKay, seconded by J. S. McCallum, M.L.A., the following resolution was adopted:

"Whereas for many years prior to the passing of the War Time Elections Act a vigorous immigration and colonization policy had been carried on in Canada, and

"Whereas as a result a very large number of immigrants of non-British birth were induced to become residents of Canada, and

"Whereas by the Dominion Government and their agents all such immigrants were, upon the fulfilment of residential and other requirements, guaranteed the full rights of citizenship, and

"Whereas such immigrants so induced to become residents of Canada lived up to the obligations demanded of them, and

"Whereas it is of the very essence of everything that is British that contracts entered into should be strictly observed in both the letter and the spirit, and

"Whereas no class of our citizens should have been exempted from Military Service on the one hand, nor deprived of the rights of citizenship on the other, and

"Whereas the War Times Election Act and the Military Service Act both violate these well established principles, and

"Whereas the passing of the War Times Election Act was a distinct violation of all undertakings given and all representations made to those whom it affected prior to their becoming permanent residents of this country;

"Now therefore this Convention is of opinion that the War Time Elections Act was not passed for the purposes ostensibly set forth and urged as a reason for enacting such measure; that it was passed by the Federal Parliament, not to assist in winning the war but as an unfair weapon with which to win an election; that the instructions issued direct from Ottawa to Returning Officers, to be by them transmitted to enumerators and Deputy Returning Officers, are conclusive proof that it was not intended that a fair and honest election should be held in December, 1917, but that it was designedly and deliberately planned that this Act should be used as a means to prevent a free and fair expression of the will of the electorate, and that the names of large numbers of electors who were supposed to be favorable to Liberal Candidates should either be omitted from the voters' list, prepared by the Government agents, or should be debarred from voting at the polls by the Deputy Returning Officers; that by an unfair use of the said Act, there was a designed and deliberate attempt to exclude from voting all voters not of British birth, who were supposed to favour the Liberal cause; and that the manner in which the election was conducted, at least in the Province of Alberta, had a tendency to lower the respect, and did lower the respect, which all voters, not of British birth, had for the British flag, and the justice for which it was supposed to stand, and the election as conducted afforded no opportunity whatever of obtaining a fair expression of the will of the electorate;

"Therefore be it resolved that the said Act should be repealed at the approaching Session of the Federal Parliament."

Claims Natural Resources for Prairie Provinces

On motion of Honourable George P. Smith, seconded by J. G. Turgeon, M.L.A., the following resolution was adopted:

"Whereas the position of the three prairie provinces with regard to their public domain, places these provinces at a very great disadvantage as compared with the other provinces of Canada.;

"And whereas the publicly pledged word of the Prime Minister of Canada without reservation or condition to transfer to these provinces their natural resources and also to compensate them for those resources already alienated, is still unredeemed to the dishonour and humiliation of Canada.

"And whereas the recent conference in Ottawa regarding this question merely added another chapter of subterfuge and evasion to the record of Borden Governments, past and present, upon this question.

"Therefore be it resolved that this Convention demands the immediate transfer of their natural resources to the three prairie provinces, and compensation for those lands and resources which have been wrongfully alienated, not only as a measure of plain justice to the provinces concerned, but also as a wise national policy in solving the many complex problems that must be solved mainly on the Western prairies."

Soldiers' Land Settlement Policy

On motion of Honourable Duncan Marshall, seconded by John J. Gaetz, M.L.A., the following resolution was adopted:

"Resolved that this Convention is of the opinion that the Government of Canada should immediately adopt and declare a definite and specific land settlement scheme for returned soldiers, whereby, so far as possible, soldiers should be settled on land in the provinces from which they enlisted, and insofar as the soldiers from Alberta are concerned, the said scheme should include:

1. The purchase by the Dominion Government of reasonably large areas of land in different parts of the province where such land could be secured in blocks, or in sections conveniently near to each other and convenient to railway communication.

"2. That suitably sized farms of the said lands should be sold to soldiers desiring to engage in agriculture upon such terms and conditions as to payments and interest as would make it possible for these men to repay the purchase price of said lands;

"3. That a careful agricultural survey should be made of each of these areas to decide the lines of agriculture that should be engaged in on each area;

"4. That arrangements should be made for the breaking of a portion of these lands to enable the soldiers settling on them to make quick preparations for their first crop;

"5. That the loan of $2,500 which it is proposed to make to soldiers on their homesteads, should be available in connection with this land, the money to be properly expended in equipment and buildings with which to begin operations.

"6. That arrangements should be made for the establishment of co-operative creameries under the direction of the Provincial Dairy Commissioner, and also for the co-operative marketing of the farm products of the men settled on these lands, and that arrangements be made for the purchase of and sale to these men of agricultural implements at manufacturers' prices;

"7. That an agricultural representative be established in connection with each settlement to give personal advice and assistance to such of these men as require the same; that this agricultural representative should be preferably a soldier who has seen service and a man who had had an agricultural college training and also experience as a practical farmer, and that where possible, a veterinary surgeon should be engaged to assist this agricultural representative and generally supervise the health of the live stock of these farmers;

"8. That buying and selling should be as largely as possible on the co-operative plan so as to obtain for these farmers the highest market price for their produce and also enable them to buy the necessities they would require in their farming operations at the lowest possible price, but that each farm should be the individual enterprise of the farmer who purchased it from the Government under this plan."

Regulation of Hours and Conditions of Labor

On motion of Honourable C. W. Cross, seconded by John McDonald, the following resolution was adopted:

"Whereas the necessity of bringing an order of social justice into the industrial world is one which is occupying the minds of statesmen in every country;

"And whereas the Government at Ottawa has taken no steps to align Canadian affairs with the advances being made in other countries toward a new industrial relationship between capital and labor;

"And whereas the time has now arrived in the affairs of Canada when progressive steps must be taken with regard to labor legislation.

"Be it resolved that this Convention hereby goes on record: (1) in favor of an **eight hour law for all** employees ordinarily known as Industrial Workers throughout the Dominion of Canada; (2) **equality of wages** as to **men and women for similar or the same service**; (3) total **abolition of child labor**; and (4) for **a minimum wage** for **all such Industrial Workers according to existing** facts and **conditions.**"

Low Tariff and Direct Taxation

On motion of Honourable A. G. McKay, seconded by Honourable G. P. Smith, the following resolution was adopted:

"Whereas Liberalism has always been opposed to a protective tariff, and has always advanced measures for the benefit of the masses;

"And whereas in 1911 the Liberal Party appealed to the country on a wide measure of reciprocity with the United States;

"And whereas the Liberal Party adopted a preferential tariff in favour of the Motherland of twenty-five per cent and subsequently increased it to thirty-three and a third per cent.;

"And whereas on the floor of Parliament the Liberal Party moved for the abolition of all duties on Farm Implements;

"And whereas year by year the policies advocated by Farmers' Organizations and the Canadian Council of Agriculture, have very closely approximated to the policy of the Liberal Party, until there is now practically no difference between such policies;

"And whereas the Canadian Council of Agriculture in November, 1918, announced and adopted a platform practically identical with the policy of the Liberal Party;

"And whereas the policies advocated by both the Liberal Party, and the Canadian Council of Agriculture are not only practically identical, but are in the very best interests, and for the benefit of all Canadians;

"And whereas the Canadian Council of Agriculture and the Liberal Party desire to attain practically the same results, this Convention is of opinion that there should no longer be any seeming difference between the policies advocated by the Canadian Council of Agriculture and the Liberal Party, but that they should unite in one joint determination to attain the adoption of their common policy which would be of inestimable benefit to all Canada;

"Therefore be it resolved that this Convention commends the platform of the Canadian Council of Agriculture declared at Winnipeg in November, 1918, as to Tariff and Taxation, and adopts it as part of the

Liberal Policy, the resolution of the Canadian Council of Agriculture as to Tariff and Taxation being as follows:

"Whereas Canada is now confronted with a huge national war debt and other greatly increased financial obligations, which can be most readily and effectively reduced by the development of our natural resources, chief of which is agricultural lands;

"And whereas it is desirable that an agricultural career should be made attractive to our returned soldiers and the large anticipated immigration, and owing to the fact that this can best be accomplished by the development of a national policy which will reduce to a minimum the cost of living and the cost of production;

"And whereas the war has revealed the amazing financial strength of Great Britain, which has enabled her to finance, not only her own part in the struggle, but also to assist in financing her Allies to the extent of hundreds of millions of pounds, this enviable position being due to the free trade policy which has enabled her to draw her supplies freely from every quarter of the globe and consequently to undersell her competitors on the world's market, and because this policy has not only been profitable to Great Britain, but has greatly strengthened the bonds of Empire by facilitating trade between the Motherland and her overseas dominions—we believe that the best interests of the Empire and of Canada would be served by reciprocal action on the part of Canada through gradual reductions of the tariff on British imports, having for its objects closer union and a better understanding between Canada and the Motherland and at the same time bring about a great reduction in the cost of living to our Canadian people;

"And whereas the Protective Tariff has fostered combines, trusts and "Gentlemen's agreements" in almost every line of Canadian industrial enterprise, by means of which the people of Canada, both urban and rural, have been shamefully exploited through the elimination of competition, the ruination of many of our smaller industries and the advancement of prices on practically all manufactured goods to the full extent permitted by the tariff;

"And whereas agriculture, the basic industry upon which the success of all other industries primarily depends, is unduly handicapped throughout Canada as shown by the declining rural population in both Eastern and Western Canada, due largely to the greatly increased cost of agricultural implements and machinery clothing, boots and shoes, building material and practically everything the farmer has to buy, caused by the Protective Tariff, so that it is becoming impossible for farmers generally, under normal conditions, to carry on farming operations profitably;

"And whereas the Protective Tariff is the most wasteful and costly method ever designed for raising national revenue, because for every dollar obtained thereby for the public treasury at least three dollars pass into the pockets of the protected interests, thereby building up a privileged class at the expense of the masses, thus making the rich richer and the poor poorer;

"And whereas the Protective Tariff has been and is a chief corrupting influence in our national life because the protected interests, in order to maintain

the unjust privileges, have contributed lavishly to political and campaign funds, thus encouraging both political parties to look to them for support, thereby lowering the standard of public morality.

"Therefore be it resolved that the Canadian Council of Agriculture, representing the organized farmers of Canada, urges that, as a means of remedying these evils and bringing about much needed social and economic reforms, our tariff laws should be amended as follows:

(*a*) By an immediate and substantial all round reduction of the customs tariff;

"(*b*) By reducing the customs duty on goods imported from Great Britain to one-half the rates charged under the general tariff, and that further gradual, uniform reductions be made in the remaining tariff on British imports that will ensure complete Free Trade between Great Britain and Canada in five years;

"(*c*) That the Reciprocity Agreement of 1911, which still remains on the United States statute books, be accepted by the parliament of Canada;

"(*d*) That all food stuff not included in the Reciprocity Agreement be placed on the free list;

"(*e*) That agricultural implements, farm machinery, vehicles, fertilizers, coal, lumber, cement, illuminating, fuel and lubricating oils be placed on the free list, and that all raw materials and machinery used in their manufacture also be placed on the free list;

"(*f*) That all tariff concessions granted to other countries be immediately extended to Great Britain;

"(*g*) That all corporations engaged in the manufacture of products protected by the customs tariff be obliged to publish annually comprehensive and accurate statements of their earnings;

"(*h*) That every claim for tariff protection by any industry should be heard publicly before a special committee of parliament;

"As these tariff reductions may very considerably reduce the national revenue from that source, the Canadian Council of Agriculture would recommend that, in order to provide the necessary additional revenue for carrying on the government of the country and for the bearing of the cost of the war, direct taxation be imposed in the following manner:

"(*a*) By a direct tax on unimproved land values, including all natural resources;

"(*b*) By a graduated personal income tax;

"(*c*) By a graduated inheritance tax on large estates;

"(*d*) By a graduated income tax on the profits of corporations;

"(*e*) That in levying and collecting the business profits tax the Dominion Government should insist that it be absolutely upon the basis of the actual cash invested in the business and that no considerations be allowed for what is popularly known as watered stock;

"(*f*) That no more natural resources be alienated from the Crown, but brought into use only under short-term leases, in which the interests of the public shall be properly safeguarded, such leases to be granted only by public auction."

"But this Convention further asserts that Free Trade with Great Britain and the United States, should be the ideal of the Liberal Party, and that it is and shall continue to be the duty of Liberalism to earnestly strive to so regulate and direct the fiscal policy of Canada, as to ultimately attain Free Trade with Great Britain and the United States."

At half past five o'clock the Convention adjourned to meet again at eight o'clock in the evening.

The Convention re-assembled at eight o'clock p.m.

Provincial Franchise for Dominion Elections

Mr. Jesse Gouge, seconded by Honourable Duncan Marshall moved the following resolution:

"Whereas the passage of the War Time Elections Act by an autocratic Dominion Parliament has demonstrated the danger to representative government and the power of a conscienceless majority in the Dominion House to destroy the very essence of Democratic Government and perpetuate themselves in power;

"Therefore be it resolved that we favor an amendment to the British North America Act, making the subject of qualifications to vote at any election in Canada, a matter, exclusively within the jurisdiction of the Provinces and Provincial Legislatures."

It was moved in amendment by George M. Thompson, seconded by O. E. Culbert, that the resolution moved by Mr. Gouge be referred back to the resolutions Committee, with instructions to amend same in such a way that provision will be made that the Provinces are not to deprive any Canadian citizen of his vote. The amendment was carried.

Mr. Gouge announced that the Resolutions Committee had amended the resolution which he had submitted to the Convention and on motion of Mr. Gouge, seconded by Honourable Duncan Marshall, the following resolution was adopted:

"Whereas the passage of the War Times Elections Act by an autocratic Dominion Parliament has demonstrated the danger to representative government and the power of a conscienceless majority in the Dominion House to destroy the very essence of Democratic Government and perpetuate themselves in power:

"Therefore be it resolved that we favor an amendment to the British North America Act, making the subject of qualifications to vote at any election in Canada, a matter, exclusively within the jurisdiction of the Provinces and Provincial Legislatures.

"And be it further resolved that in the opinion of this Convention it should be recognized as a principle of Liberalism that no person who is or becomes a citizen of Canada shall be disfranchised for any reason, except breach of the obligations of citizenship, and that no considerations of race or creed should be allowed to interfere with the right to the franchise, and that the franchise should be considered a right and not a privilege."

Financial Statement

The Secretary-Treasurer then submitted his accounts showing that the cost of the Convention held at Edmonton on November 10th, 1917, amounted to $641.81,

and that the amount collected to defray the expense of said Convention was $576.80, leaving a balance of $65.01 due to the Secretary-Treasurer.

On motion of Mr. Hinsley of Forfoka, seconded by Mr. Wallace of Calgary, it was resolved that the accounts of the Secretary-Treasurer just read be received and adopted.

Dominion Convention

The Secretary then read the correspondence between himself and Sir Wilfred Laurier in relation to the calling of a Dominion Convention, Sir Wilfred Laurier stating that it was the intention to call such a Convention at Ottawa when the terms of peace had been settled.

Protest Against Monopoly in Natural Resources

On motion of George M. Thompson, seconded by W. A. Rae, M.L.A., the following resolution was adopted:

"Whereas the granting of large tracts of valuable timber, coal, oil and mineral lands belonging to the people of Canada and constituting the source of supply of the raw materials necessary to the welfare of the settlers of this country leads to the creation of dangerous and burdensome monopolies;

"And whereas there is publicly reported to be before the Dominion Government a project to alienate almost the entire oil resources of the North Half of Alberta and the whole of the Mackenzie River Country for the benefit of a corporation which is not even Canadian;

"Therefore be it resolved that this Convention place itself on record as demanding complete restitution of those resources wrongfully alienated from the public domain of the prairie provinces and hereby declares that this Convention regards as improper alienation any arrangement whereby natural resources are acquired otherwise than by parliamentary legislation;

"And further resolved that this Convention protest against the granting of large blocks of natural resources, by Order-in-Council or otherwise, in such manner as may constitute monopolies;

"And further resolved that this Convention places itself on record as demanding of the Liberal Party in the event of its attaining office, the cancellation of any and all clandestine contracts, affecting public domain which from this date forward may be entered into by Order-in-Council, which may tend to create monopoly and constitute a discrimination against the actual settler and people in general."

Mr. Ross Sutherland on behalf of the Committee collecting from the Convention the expense of holding same handed to the Secretary-Treasurer $223.90, for which receipt was given.

Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment

On motion of Honourable J. R. Boyle, seconded by J. A. McColl, M.L.A., the following resolution was adopted:

"Whereas the Victories of the Allies have displaced the problems of war by the problems of peace, and

"Whereas the first and most pressing problem is the return of the men composing Canada's army to civil life under as favorable conditions as the country can provide, and

"Whereas this Convention declares its support of the principle of gratuity pay on the basis of a fixed minimum and increase to be estimated on a monthly basis in accordance with the length of service for all honourably discharged soldiers, such pay to include due provision for the soldiers' dependents;

"Free medical attendance wherever practicable for soldiers and their dependents during the period covered by their post gratuity;

"Loans to soldiers who are fitted for and desire to settle on land. And loans to men wishing to start in any other industry or business;

"Loans to enable soldiers who are fitted for and desire to re-enter industrial employment, to erect suitable dwellings in villages, towns or cities;

"Adequate and equitable pensions for disabled or partially disabled men and their dependents having regard to the cost of living;

"Vocational training at State expense of all soldiers who desire and are fitted to take advantage of such training;

"Period of Military Service to count as homestead residence for soldiers who made entry after as well as before enlistment;

"That all possible expedition be used so that there shall be no unnecessary delay between the arrival of the soldier and his commencement of vocational training;

"Supplying artificial limbs and other appliances to disabled soldiers free of charge;

"Providing special sanitaria for soldiers suffering from shell shock or other forms of mental affliction, or other disease, and sanitaria for those suffering from tuberculosis;

"Providing suitable permanent homes for totally disabled soldiers who might desire to avail themselves of them;

"A war bonus in cash to each soldier based on the length of his service in the Army; and as to those who have lost their lives a bonus to their dependents irrespective of length of service;

"An annuity to widows and orphans of all soldiers who die subsequent to the War where the estate of the soldier is insufficient to support his widow or orphans; or in the alternative provide Life Insurance for returned soldiers;

"Giving due preference to soldiers in appointments to public office and generally recognizing the principle that the soldier having rendered special service to the State is entitled to special consideration at the hand of the State.

"Whereas after all has been directly done for the returned soldier it must be realized that he did not serve and sacrifice for himself, but for his country, and that unless Canada is prosperous and free, his service and sacrifice have been in vain.

"Therefore be it resolved that in the opinion of this Convention it is the duty of the Government of Canada to deal promptly, fairly and liberally in all particulars with the demobilized soldier himself;

"Secondly, by sound and progressive legislation to realize for Canada the ideals of justice and liberty that the soldier fought to secure for Belgium and France, and

"Thirdly, to pursue such governmental policy in regard to agriculture, industry, trade, finance, transportation and development as will widen opportunity for the soldier and make Canada a better country for him to live in.

"The term 'soldier' in this resolution is to be read as including men from Canada who have served in the Navy and women who served in a nursing or other capacity in the Army."

Proportional Representation Rejected

It was moved by W. D. Spence that to bring about a greater measure of democracy we recommend proportional representation in all cities where two or more members are to be elected and the transferable vote in all constituencies.

It was moved in amendment by G. M. Thompson, seconded by A. McTeer, that in the opinion of this Convention, the Dominion of Canada is not ready for proportional representation. The amendment was carried.

Demands Equal Franchise for Women

On motion of A. T. Mode, seconded by Mrs. R. S. Cook, the following resolution was adopted:

"Whereas the women of Alberta had been granted the provincial franchise on an equal footing with men;

"And whereas the provincial franchise had for a great many years been taken as the basis of qualification as a voter for federal elections;

"And whereas at the last federal election the franchise was extended to only a comparatively small class of women in Alberta;

"And whereas at the said election Sir Robert Borden promised to give the franchise to the women of Canada 'after the election';

"And whereas the so-called Union Government has since passed 'An Act to confer electoral franchise upon women';

"And whereas the said act contains provisions with reference to all women who are British subjects, by marriage or by naturalization of their parents while they were minors, which provisions are practically impossible of fulfilment as therein required;

"And whereas the said provisions are designed to bar many of our women from voting and to put into the hands of the government, through its enumerators the power to select or handpick the women electorate;

"And whereas the said power in even much lesser degree led, at the last election, to gross irregularities, fraud and intimidation and to the disfranchisement of many duly qualified electors;

"We, the Liberals of Alberta, in Convention assembled, deplore the fact that the so-called Union Government has seen fit to carry out Sir Robert Borden's promise to the women of Canada in this manner, and under this disguise, and we affirm our unqualified support to the women for electoral rights both in voting and as members of parliament on an equal footing with the men."

Decentralized Banking System

On motion of Mr. Jesse Gouge, seconded by Mr. Barkley the following resolution was submitted and considered:

"Whereas the banking system of Canada as now in vogue tends to centralize all the financial institutions of the country in the hands of a small banking monopoly or money trust;

"And whereas the rapidly developing commerce and industry of the country demands a constantly increasing and efficient banking facility coupled with a system of elastic currency, which currency must be of an absolutely sound and redeemable character, and

"Whereas the present systen of banking has resulted in a reduction of the number of chartered banks in Canada to ninteeen, with a consequent reduction in currency and circulation, and has placed the financial interests of the country in the hands of a close monopoly with power to increase or diminish the currency of the country at will; to fix interest, discount and exchange rates and maintain them.

"Therefore be it resolved that we favor the passage by parliament of a National Bank Act authorizing the chartering of local National Banks by the Dominion Government, said banks to be subject to inspection by a Dominion Bank Examiner, and with power to issue bank currency, by first depositing with the Minister of Finance, Dominion Government Bonds to the extent of the full amount of bank notes issued, or ten per cent. in excess of the amount of notes to be so issued—all national banks to be organized with paid-up capital of $50,000.00 or more, and to be without power to establish branches."

On motion the Convention adjourned at eleven p.m. to meet again at ten o'clock in the morning on January 17th.

The Convention re-assembled at ten o'clock on Friday, January 17th.

The discussion on the banking resolution submitted by Mr. Gouge was continued and the said resolution was carried.

Hon. Mr. Motherwell, of Saskatchewan, Addresses Convention

On the invitation of the President, the Honourable Mr. Motherwell of Saskatchewan then addressed the Convention.

At half past twelve o'clock an adjournment was taken until two p. m. when the Convention re- assembled.

On motion of A. D. McKenzie, seconded by G. M. Thompson, it was resolved that three-quarters of an hour be set aside for the discussion of the general welfare of the Party by the Convention in general.

Dominion Wide Prohibition

On motion of L. U. Fowler, seconded by A. McTeer, it was resolved that the Federal Parliament should absolutely prohibit the manufacture, importation, exportation, storage or sale of intoxicating liquors within the Dominion of Canada.

Protest Against Censorship

On motion of Honourable George P. Smith, seconded by Honourable Frank Oliver, the following resolution was adopted:

"Whereas Liberty of Speech—the right to express opinion by verbal or written words—is a first principle of Liberalism and is the foundation of successful democracy;

"Whereas in time of war the right of free speech may properly be restricted by authority of parliament for the purpose of preventing treasonable utterances and to prevent information of military value from reaching the enemy;

"Whereas it is an accepted principle of democratic Government that when internal conditions justify such procedure the Government may proclaim martial law, thereby putting in the hands of the military authorities the power to arbitrarily suppress such utterances as they see fit, to such extent and by such means as they may deem necessary;

"Whereas the Government of Sir Robert Borden under pretext of war necessity has established throughout Canada a censorship both of the public press and of private speech which is in effect censorship by martial law, without martial law having been proclaimed;

"Whereas this power of the censorship has been employed, not so much to suppress utterances of treasonable intent or effect, or to prevent information of military value from reaching the enemy, as to prevent fair, reasonable and necessary criticism of the inefficiency and graft which has characterized the war administration of the Borden Government, and to protect those concerned from a due measure of criticism by the people whose blood and money has carried on the war.

"Whereas the enforcement of such a censorship has had the effect of decreasing public confidence in any statement made on behalf of the Government, especially concerning military operations, and in that respect prevents full credit being given to the valor and sacrifice of Canada's soldiers in the war.

"Therefore be it resolved that the Union Government is hereby condemned for having established a martial law censorship without having taken the responsibility of proclaiming martial law, and for having abused the power thus usurped to defend their Civil administration from deserved criticism as well as to prevent correct knowledge of their military administration from reaching the people whose sons and brothers were fighting against the imposition by Germany of such a censorship upon the world."

Demands Preservation Canadian Autonomy

On motion of Honourable A. G. McKay, seconded by Honourable J. R. Boyle, the following resolution was adopted:

"Whereas from time to time it is reported in the press that the peace conference about to sit in Paris will result in treaties between the powers directly concerned, which will deal with matters of trade, defence, immigration and other important subjects.

"Whereas under the measure of autonomy enjoyed by Canada as a part of the British Empire, the subjects mentioned, insofar as they relate to Canada, are solely under control of the people of Canada through the Canadian parliament;

"Whereas the sacrifices made by Canada in the war were for the purpose (among others) of establishing the autonomous rights of the weaker nations so that might should not prevail over right;

"Whereas this Convention claims for Canada the rights that she fought to secure for others;

"Therefore be it resolved that the Government of Canada is hereby urged to insist that in any of the treaties or agreements at the Peace Conference by or on behalf of the British Empire there should be, whether directly or indirectly, no trespass upon or derogation from the powers of self-government heretofore enjoyed and exercised by Canada; and that in any apportionment of war indemnity Canada receive her fair share, not as payment for sacrifices made but as recognition of the part taken by her in the struggle for world liberty;

"And further that this Convention declares that no change should be made at any Imperial Conference in our Constitutional relations with the Government of the United Kingdom which would impair or limit in any way our freedom of action or decision as a nation."

Condemns Borden Government for Transgression of Constitutional Rights

On motion of Honourable Frank Oliver, seconded by E. F. Ryan, the following resolution was adopted:

"Whereas the Liberals of Alberta in Convention assembled hereby declare their belief that the application of Liberal principles to the work of government in Canada offers the only solution of the many problems which have to be met in building up within the Dominion a strong, prosperous and progressive nation, and

"Whereas as the result of the devotion and exertions of the Liberal Party during a long period of years, and under the successive Leadership of men of the highest honour and of the greatest talent, effect was given to Liberal principles in such matters as

Equal Franchise
Free and Secret Ballot
Honest elections
Rule of the Majority
Representative Parliament
Responsible government
Laws made only by parliament
Liberty of the subject in speech and act, subject to limitations fixed by parliament
Supremacy of the civil over the military power, except where martial law has been proclaimed, and

"Whereas these principles had been expressly embodied in legislation or had been confirmed by practice so that they were universally and unreservedly recognized as being part of the constitution of the country, and

"Whereas the Borden Government, before and after the elections of 1917 transgressed each one of these fundamental principles of Liberalism which had been

incorporated into the Constitution of the country, and thereby usurped autocratic power, which that Government has since used and abused to the great detriment of the country and against the welfare of its citizens;

"Therefore be it resolved that in the opinion of this Convention the Borden Government is not entitled to the support of electors who desire to uphold and advance Liberal principles as a means toward the building up of Canada."

Demands Unrestricted Sale of Seed Oats

On motion of Angus McDonnell, seconded by Mr. Ryecroft, the following resolution was adopted:

"Whereas in actual practice under the Orders-in-Council regulating the handling of seed grain, the price is fixed for the seller without finally being fixed for the buyer, and the right of dealing of farmer with farmer is destroyed, and the price of seed grain to the purchaser is unduly enhanced by adding excessive costs of handling by the Dominion Seed Grain Commissioner.

"Now therefore we hereby express ourselves in favour of the restoration of the right of unrestricted sale."

Appreciation of Edmonton Bulletin

On motion of J. G. Turgeon, M.L.A., seconded by A. T. Mode, the following resolution was adopted:

"Whereas during the extremely critical perio through which Canada has been passing, the daily press of Canada has utterly failed to give voice to those principles of democracy for which the soldiers of Canada were fighting and suffering;

"And whereas The Edmonton Bulletin has been an outstanding exponent of Liberal principles and a strong supporter of the Liberal Party;

"Therefore be it resolved that this Convention of Alberta Liberals express its appreciation of the consistent stand taken by the Edmonton Bulletin."

Vote of Thanks to G. M. Thompson, of Calgary Canadian

On motion of Mr. Horner, seconded by Mr. McKenzie, a vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. G. M. Thompson and the Calgary Canadian for the splendid work done by them in upholding the principles of Liberalism. Mr. Thompson gave a short address in reply.

A Public Health Policy

On motion of Dr. Leslie Wright, seconded by Honourable A. G. McKay, the following resolution was adopted:

"Whereas the Province of Alberta has already embarked on Provincial Health Programs, wherein the State is assuming responsibility for the health of the people; and is undertaking to provide hospital accommodation on much the same basis as public schools;

"And whereas there is great need of Provincial hospitals for surgery and special medical work to supplement the municipal hospitals now being organized;

"Therefore be it resolved that this Convention goes on record as demanding for each province, its fair quota of all the hospital and dental equipment and supplies in use in Canadian Military Hospitals in Canada and overseas whenever these supplies and equipment are no longer required for the Canadian Expeditionary Force, in order to build up provincial institutions for the welfare of the whole people; and that this Convention go on record as being opposed to the sale, gift, loan or lease of any of this equipment to any persons, corporations or associations engaged in the business of providing hospital accommodation for profit; and this Convention strongly urges both the Provincial and Federal Governments to forthwith deal seriously with the whole health problem, including and dealing particularly with the questions of Baby Welfare, Tuberculosis, Venereal diseases, and the proper care of all those whether infants or adults, who are mentally deficient, also the aged and infirm;

"We also recommend that an immediate survey should be made of the Province to ascertain the real facts and requirements along all these lines, and that a vigorous policy of research work, along preventive lines, be adopted."

Appreciation of Albertan Report

On motion of Honourable Duncan Marshall, seconded by Honourable Frank Oliver, it was resolved that this Convention expresses its appreciation of the splendid report of its proceedings which appeared in the Morning Albertan. This report was not only complete and accurate in its detail, but it was arranged and displayed in a manner that would enable its readers to have a clear understanding of all the important work of the meeting.

Mrs. W. M. Davidson replied.

Printing Committee Appointed

On motion of S. G. Tobin, M.L.A., seconded by Dr. Johnson, it was resolved that a committee consisting of Honourable Frank Oliver, Honourable Duncan Marshall and Honourable George P. Smith be appointed to prepare and publish a report of this Convention for distribution.

Protest Against Unfair Increase in Express Rates

On motion of O. L. McPherson, seconded by J. E. Varley, the following resolution was adopted:

"Whereas there is now on foot a movement to raise freight and express rates generally in the face of downward prices of commodities, constituting a decided discrimination against certain sections of the country, and

"Whereas by Orders-in-Council rates have been raised subordinating Railway Commissions and without notice to the shipping public greatly interfering with the safe conduct of business;

"Therefore be it resolved that this Convention hereby expresses its strong disapproval of all such discriminatory and unfair handling of such questions vitally affecting individuals and business enterprises, and asks that a competent investigation of such matters be

inaugurated to the end that an intelligent and scientific control of such matters be exercised, and hereby condemns the Borden Government for its arbitrary interference with the functions of the authority in that behalf as constituted by Parliament.

Officers Elected

The election of officers was then proceeded with.

Dr. William Egbert and A. McTeer were nominated for the position of President. A vote having been taken the Chairman declared Dr. Egbert elected as President of the Association.

Lieutenant W. R. Howson was nominated as First Vice-President of the Association. There being no further nominations, Lieutenant Howson was declared elected.

Dr. Oliver Boyd was nominated as Second Vice-President of the Association. There being no further nominations, he was declared elected.

O. E. Culbert was nominated as Secretary-Treasurer of the Association. There being no other nominations, he was declared elected.

Charles Gordon was nominated as Assistant Secretary of the Association. There being no further nominations he was declared elected.

Recording National Convention

The Secretary drew the attention of the Convention to the fact that provision should be made for a delegation to attend the Dominion Convention to be called by Sir Wilfred Laurier.

On motion of Honourable Duncan Marshall, it was decided that as many Liberals as could possibly attend should be present at the Dominion Convention, and that the persons so in attendance should then choose the delegates in conformity with any rules laid down for the Constitution of the Dominion Convention.

Constitution Amended

On motion of A. T. Mode, seconded by S. G. Tobin, the Constitution of the Association was amended, by striking out clause 13 thereof and substituting therefor the following:

"13. The Liberal Candidate for the House of Commons shall be chosen by a Nominating Convention in each Federal Riding. For the purpose of a Nominating Convention there shall be elected from among the electors of each polling subdivision in each Federal Riding, one voting delegate for each one hundred votes or fraction thereof polled at the last Federal Election in each said polling subdivision. Provided, however, that in any event each polling subdivision shall be entitled to two voting delegates. Only the voting delegates shall be entitled to vote at a Nominating Convention."

Vote of Thanks and Collection

A vote of thanks was tendered to the retiring officers.

The committee appointed to make collections for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the Convention reported that $257.87 had been collected, and that amount was handed over to the Secretary-Treasurer who gave a receipt therefor to Mr. George Connelly.

The Convention closed by singing the National Anthem.

Alberta Liberal Association

Your Committee of Constitution begs to recommend that the following Constitution be adopted:

Name

1. The name of the Association shall be "Alberta Liberal Association".

Officers

2. The Officers shall be, President, Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer and Assistant Secretary.

Executive Committee

3. There shall also be an Executive Committee consisting of the said Officers, the Liberal Senators for Alberta, the Liberal Federal Members for Alberta, the Liberal Candidates for the House of Commons defeated at the last election in Alberta and the Presidents of the District Liberal Associations of each Federal Riding in the Province of Alberta.

Vacancies

4. Any vacancy on the Executive Committee may be filled by the Committee itself, but any Member of the Executive Committee so appointed shall hold office only until his successor has been regularly appointed.

Quorum

5. Seven members of the Executive Committee shall form a quorum.

Term of Office

6. The President, Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer and Assistant Secretary are to hold office until their successors have been appointed by a general convention called under the provisions of the Constitution of the Alberta Liberal Association.

Disqualifications

7. No person who holds either the office of Senator or Member of the House of Commons, or of the Provincial Legislature of Alberta shall be eligible to be an Officer of the Association.

8. No person who is an employee of the Federal or Provincial Government shall be eligible to hold any office in this Association.

Powers of Executive

9. The Executive shall have full power to act on behalf of the Liberal Party between conventions and may promulgate rules and regulations not inconsistent herewith for all nominating and other conventions.

District Conventions

10. In each Federal Riding there shall be formed a District Liberal Association, the officers of which shall be President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer, who, together with fifteen members to be elected at the meeting of the District Convention shall be the Executive Committee of the District Association. Five or more members of such Executive shall form a quorum.

11. Each District Association may take such steps as it may deem necessary or expedient to meet the expenses of such Association and to elect its Officers and Executive Committee.

Nominating Conventions

12. Nominating Conventions in Federal Ridings shall be called in each constituency by the Executive Committee of this Association, or by the President of this Association, or in his absence or illness, or refusal to act, by the Vice-President of this Association.

Voting at Nominating Conventions

13. The Liberal Candidate for the House of Commons shall be chosen by a Nominating Convention in each Federal Riding. For the purpose of a Nominating Convention there shall be elected from among the electors of each polling subdivision in each Federal Riding, one voting delegate for each one hundred votes or fraction thereof polled at the last Federal Election in each said polling subdivision. Provided, however, that in any event, each polling subdivision shall be entitled to two voting delegates. Only the voting delegates shall be entitled to vote at a Nominating Convention.

Proxies

14. No proxy shall be allowed at any Convention or meeting of any Committee or Association.

Primaries

15. All primaries in polling subdivisions for the election of delegates to any Nominating Convention in any Riding shall be held on the same day and at the same hour throughout the constituency; the details of the organization of each polling subdivision to be determined by the Executive for the Riding, but not to be inconsistent herewith.

16. In the event of any misunderstanding or difficulty arising in connection with the organization of any Nominating Convention, or of any polling subdivision and not expressly covered by these provisions, the same shall be dealt with by the Executive Committee of this Association, the decision of which shall be final.

Voting at Provincial Conventions

17. Every Provincial Liberal Convention shall be an open one. That is to say, any Liberal may attend and take part in the discussions and work of the Convention, and may move resolutions thereat. But in the event of a vote being necessary, ten voting delegates shall be selected for each Federal Riding at the Convention by the delegates present from each such Riding, and such voting delegate alone shall be allowed to vote.

Calling Provincial Conventions

18. A Provincial Convention may be called at any time by the Executive Committee, or by the President, or in his absence or illness, or refusal to act, by the Vice-President.

Amendments

19. This Constitution may be amended at any time by a resolution of a General Provincial Convention.

General

20. Any matters not hereby provided for may be decided by the Executive Committee of this Association.

Respectfully submitted,

O. E. CULBERT,

Secretary.

Edmonton, November 10th, 1917.